Society's Aims Defended by Rep. Hiestand

By Don Irwin at WASHINGTON, Mar. 11 California Republican Congressmen vigorusly deterd-ed today their membership in the John Birch Society and urged a Congression! incling to refute "smears" about the arch-conservative group.

The society's open Congressional advocates were Reps. Edgar W. Hiestand and John H. Rousselot, both representatives of sections of sprawling Los Angeles County. Both said they know of other Congressional members of the Controversy-shrouded group, but declined to name them.

Both friends and foes of the society urged investigation of its militant opposition to individuals and proposals which the society links with communism. But there was no such inquiry on the immediate hori-

Un-American Activities Committee, questioned his group's with "the founder.") jurisdiction on the ground the

ing of the Senate Internal Security subcommittee, of which he is a member. The subcommittee's influential-and conservative — chairman, Sen. James O. Eastland, D., Miss., declined comment on the proposal,

Complaints Sent In

At the Justice Department, there was said to be "concern". about the number of letters. averaging upward of fifty daily, complaining about the society's political activities and attacks by some John Birchers against individuals who disagree with the society's approach.

The department's Internal Security Division was said to be reviewing the situation, but there were no signs of a formal? avestigation reportedly hecause there are no complaints of statutory violations that would give the department jurisdiction. Changed vith profection both of meetnal securits and civil loom

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The uproar about the society. on the Senate floor, evoked new named. He was killed by dent Eisenhower, is a "conscious" Chinese Reds in 1945. jagent' of the Communist conspiracy from the society's chief of the Central intelligence founder-leader, Robert H. W. Agency, should be removed as Welch fr. Mr. Welch, a retired a Community tool, or with other Helment, Mass., candy manu- John Birchers who propose imspecializer, talked with The As-peachment of Chief Justice Earl special Press this evening after Warren on the same ground. It day of "unavailability" to Fe-These disagreements. Rep. Dorters.

whom Rep. Hiestand called "the

founder." At once affable and vehement, Rep. Hiestand fielded barbed questions without a fumble as he expressed what he called his Rep. Francis E. Walter, D., "personal views." (He did con-group begins to hurt, it begins to Pa., chaîrman of the House code; however, that he had be smeared." Communists, he

"Rep. Hiestand challenged the complaints against the society vehiclity of quotations from deal with alleged libels against writings by Mr. Welch which describe former President Elsen individuals, including former hower as a dedicated, conscious President Eisenhower, and not agent of the Communist conwith moves against the government of represent from an ortical ment.
Sen. Thomas J. Dodd, D. The Founder wrote seven Conn., promised to ask for an years ago, Rep. Hiertand said, investigation at the next meet and doesn't involve the society's "principles."

> Furthermore, he said, he personally didn't agree with the statement. To further questions, he said he can't agree with Mr. Welch that Allen W. Dulles,



whom the controversial

These disagreements, Hep. of two other Congressmen who Illestand said, show that the science members of the society Rep. Hiestand called a heavily ciety is a group of "rusged inditelevised news conference this vidualists" not subject to He refused names.

"thought control by some dictamicroflers as "rusged individualite, dedicated to patriotism and determined in their fight against which he defined as voluntary mission, mation director of the Federal determined in their fight against which he defined as voluntary Housing Administration, said communism." He denied that it, action to combat all manifests—he would "welcome" an investigative secret or neo-Fascist.

"Home Chapter" Member to said the society is dedicated to any mide, he said, an inquiry five-term Congressman, who refives term Congressman, who refired as a chain-store branch; "less government, individual will show that John Birch
manager before entering Con"success" in these activities has communism, documented with

Asked how the society's activities had begun to "hurt," Rep. Hiestand replied that he wasn't "well enough informed to say," but that "the record shows "when an anti-Communist" code; however, that he had added, are in "the far back-spoken by telephone yesterday added, are in "the far back-ground" of this attack, while

The group's principles are spelled out, he said, in a "blue book" written by Mr. Welch, which he described as "available." When reporters said they hadn't seen one, the Congressman said he was sorry his was at

Not a Secret Seciety

Denying that he society is secret, Rep. Hiestand said its rolls aren't public because members might be subject to persecution" which they couldn't take because most of them are "little people,"

He told a questioner he had no knowledge" of charges that California units of the society had asked students to report on activities of teachers. He conceded some questionnaires had been sent out that asked "personal questions," but said they "shouldn't be counte-nanced." thev

Reminded that J. Edgar Hoover, director of the P. B. I,, has warned against fighting communism with "visilante groups," Rep. Hisstand said he thought that was "sound." and denied that the John Birch, Society is covered by that definition.

'Might be Others' Asked to name other mem-

Reached by telephone in California, Rep. Rousselot said he had joined a Los Angeles imit of the society last fall and is "proud to be a member" of what he defined as "basically study group."

Rep. Rousselot said he knew

gress, said he had been one of success" in these activities has communism, documented with the early members of the so-, begun to hurt," he said that is reports by the F. B. I., the tiety's "home chapter," founded is being "smeared" by "pro- Justice Department, the Untwo years ago by Mr. Welch. Communists." ity subcommittee.

Rep. Rousselot defended the societa's controversial letter-

writing campaigns directed at members of Congress. He said such letters had been directed against Federal aid to education and still-pending Demo-eratio-backed proposals to set those in the foreground are "fine up uniform Federal standards.

people." for state unemployment insurance programs.

> N. A. M. Censured Society The National Association of Manufacturers disclosed yesterday in New York it had in effect censured the John Birch Society in a board resolution adopted last September.

Charles R. Bligh jr., executive vice-president of the N. A. M., said the three former N. A. M. presidents listed as members of the council of the controversial society participated in drawing up the resolution which was passed unanimously.

The resolution did not mention the society or its founder and leader, Robert Welch, by name, But Mr. Sligh said it was passed after disclosure that Mr. Welch had called Gen. Eisenhower a Constitution of the control of the control



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